



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

March 23, 2015

Michael Routhier, Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Alaska OCS Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

Dear Mr. Routhier:

We have reviewed the Final Second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Chukchi Sea Planning Area, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 193 (EPA Project #05-049-MMS) in the Chukchi Sea, Alaska, in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our December 16, 2014, letter on the Draft SSEIS we rated the preferred alternative "EC-1" (Environmental Concerns-Adequate Information) primarily due to our concerns regarding the potential for spills or releases to impact water quality and subsistence resources. We acknowledged, however, that even with the revised production estimates, the probability of such an event remains low. We also recognized the incorporation of new mitigation measures; the tremendous effort to revise the resource development scenario; and new information on the affected environment and impact analyses, as well as other changes.

We also recommended including an Executive Summary and Impacts Summary Table in the Final SSEIS, and providing additional clarifications regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for the Chukchi Sea. We appreciate that this information has been incorporated in the Final SSEIS. We have no additional comments or recommendations to offer at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Final SSEIS. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "R" and "G".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit